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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: John R. Liddicoat et al.
Serial No.: 10/068,700
Filing Date: 02/05/2002
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
REDUCING MITRAL REGURGITATION
Group Art Unit: 3738
Examiner: Crystal M. Gilpin
Attorney's Docket No.: VIA-16

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby make the following documents of record in the above-identified application:

U.S. Patents

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 6,071,263, issued 06/06/00 to Kirkman
- (2) U.S. Patent No. 5,855,565, issued 01/05/99 to Bar-Cohen et al.
- (3) U.S. Patent No. 6,086,599, issued 07/11/00 to Lee et al.
- (4) U.S. Patent No. 5,984,917, issued 11/16/99 to Fleischman et al.
- (5) U.S. Patent No. 6,258,117, issued 07/10/01 to Camrud et al.

Foreign Patents

- (6) Japanese Patent Application No. 409322936A, by A S A SANGYO KK, published 12/16/97

Copies of these documents, which are listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449 (one page), are enclosed herewith. Applicants respectfully request that these documents be fully considered by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office during the examination of this application and printed on any patent which may issue on this application. Applicants also respectfully request that a copy of Form PTO-1449 (one page), as considered and initialed by the Examiner, be returned to the undersigned with the next communication.

VIA-16

Each of the enclosed documents contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the mailing date indicated hereinbelow.

It is believed that this disclosure complies with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. If for any reason the Examiner considers otherwise, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be contacted by the Examiner by telephone in order that any deficiencies may be expeditiously remedied.

The enclosed documents may have markings thereon. Applicants are not presently aware of the source of those markings, and no significance is meant to be attached thereto.

Please charge any additional fees due in connection with this submission, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0221. A duplicate copy of this submission is enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

Thank you.

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September 8, 2003

(DATE OF DEPOSIT)

James A. Sheridan

(NAME OF ATTORNEY)

James A. Sheridan 09/08/2003

(SIGNATURE)

September 8, 2003

(DATE OF SIGNATURE)

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Sheridan 09/08/2003

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**Examiner
Signature**

Date
Considered

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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